



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Mayor Mufi Hannemann and key City officials joined neighborhood board leaders who support rail mass transit at the bill-signing ceremony: From left, City Councilman Nestor Garcia, Transportation Services Director Melvin Kaku, Mililani Neighborhood Board Chairman Dick Poirier, Mayor Hannemann, Makakilo Neighborhood Board Chairwoman Maeda Timson, Ewa Beach Neighborhood Board Chairman Kurt Fevella, Councilman Romy Cachola, Waipahu Neighborhood Board Chairman Richard Oshiro, Pearl City Neighborhood Board Transportation Chairman Cruz Vina Jr., and Councilman Rod Tam.

MAYOR SIGNS HISTORIC MASS TRANSIT BILL INTO LAW

KAPOLEI – With thanks to lawmakers and the citizens who spoke out in favor of rail mass transit, Mayor Mufi Hannemann signed Bill 79 into law in a ceremony at Kapolei Hale on January 7.

A mass transit solution for Oahu has eluded government leaders for over 40 years. The bill designates a fixed guideway as the mode of mass transit for Honolulu, and calls for an alignment from Kapolei to Manoa.

“This is the first step toward an integrated, multimodal transportation system for Oahu,” Hannemann said. “This is the right thing to do, as it will improve our quality of life. Families for generations to come will be grateful for our taking this step forward.”

Hannemann thanked the City Council members who voted 7-2 to approve the bill in a special meeting in December. He also thanked the state Legislature, which in 2005 authorized the excise tax surcharge that will fund the project, and most important, the neighborhood board members and other citizens who publicly supported the mass transit plan over the past two years.

Hannemann said he plans for the City to break ground on the fixed guideway in 2009 and to have the first leg operating in 2012.

More immediately, his administration will recommend an initial phase to the City Council this month, and work on the preliminary engineering and environmental impact statement for the transit system is expected to begin in February.

MAYOR ANNOUNCES WAIANAE COMMUNITY BENEFITS PACKAGE DETAILS

WAIANAE – Mayor Mufi Hannemann announced the City will provide \$1 million in grants to 19 nonprofit organizations and an additional \$1 million in supplemental park improvements as part of the Waianae community benefits package.

“These grants and projects are intended to help offset the burden the Waianae Coast bears for housing Oahu’s only landfill,” said Hannemann. “I have long advocated the need for something like this, above and beyond routine City funding and attention for a community that has all too often in the past felt it was treated as second-class.

“We announced our plan in June and established a community benefits advisory committee made up of representatives from throughout the Leeward Coast to solicit, review and recommend how best to spend the \$2 million,” said Hannemann. “Under the leadership of Chairman Aimoku McClellan, the committee did a thorough, thoughtful job and I am pleased to follow through on its recommendations.”

The committee also included John DeSoto, Ku‘ulei Jolonino, Georgette “Jo” Jordan, John Kaopua, John Kapololu, Neddie Waiamanu-Nunuha, Mark Suiso, Patty Teruya and Roy Wickramaratna.

“We have also taken some dramatic steps to follow through on my promise to provide clean and safe parks,” said Hannemann. “They include our cleanup of Ala Moana and our ongoing effort to improve other parks, including Tracks, Maili, Pokai Bay, Waianae District Park and Nanakuli.

“Half of our \$2 million community benefits package for Waianae is intended to supplement those efforts,” he said. They are:

- **Nanakuli Beach Park** – \$265,000 for parking and lighting improvements (\$90,000 for planning and design; \$175,000 for construction).
- **Nanakuli Beach Park** – \$95,000, which is already allocated, to complete the canoe halau.
- **Pokai Bay Beach Park** – \$120,000 for construction of play apparatus.
- **Maili Beach Park** – \$500,000 to expand the parking lot (\$120,000 for planning and design; \$380,000 for construction).
- **Waianae District Park** – \$425,000 to expand the parking lot (\$105,000 for planning and design; \$320,000 for construction).



Community leaders and grant recipients were on hand for the announcement at Waianae District Park.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS GRANTS

- **Alternative Structures International** - \$100,000 to renovate Raphael House, a residential community for people with disabilities.
- **Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Honolulu** - \$25,000 for mentoring services for children and youth in the communities.
- **Hale Kipa, Inc.** - \$25,000 for direct case management services for homeless youth.
- **Hawaii Family Services** - \$25,000 for cultural identification and peer support services for children.
- **Hawaii Foodbank, Inc.** - \$60,500 for the Leeward community nutrition program.
- **Helping Hands Hawaii** - \$61,633 for the Community Clearinghouse Program to provide material goods and financial assistance to the needy.
- **Hoa ‘Aina O Makaha** - \$68,365 to replace an outdated water meter and line for a five-acre agricultural parcel serving children and youth.
- **Ho‘omanu Ke Ola** - \$85,850 to renovate a 16-bed transitional shelter for the homeless.
- **Ka‘ala Farm, Inc.** - \$35,000 for hands-on agricultural educational programs in elementary schools.
- **Kapolei Elementary School** - \$100,000 to construct shade covering for the school’s existing playground.
- **Ke Ola ‘Ana** - \$21,063 for an acupuncture detoxification program.
- **Leeward Kai Canoe Club** - \$15,000 to repair an existing koa canoe.
- **Salvation Army** - \$25,000 for transportation services to provide social services.
- **Steadfast Housing Development Corp.** - \$100,000 for electrical and emergency systems upgrades in a 71-unit residential and supportive services program.
- **U.S. Vets** - \$37,500 to provide food assistance for homeless veterans.
- **Valley of the Rainbows** - \$60,000 for an educational youth conference and assist with Sunset on the Beach events.
- **Waianae Coast Coalition** - \$30,000 to develop and maintain an on-line community website to include information on community resources.
- **Waianae Coast Christian Women’s Job Corps** - \$82,088 to provide life skills and job skills to people experiencing homelessness.
- **Young Women’s Christian Association** - \$33,000 for direct service costs related to implementing its family loan program.

WINDWARD DRIVERS GET KOOLAU LICENSE CENTER

AHUIMANU – Mayor Mufi Hannemann opened the City’s new Koolau Driver License Center at the Koolau Center, formerly known as Temple Valley Shopping Center, on December 21, 2006.

The site was selected by the mayor after reviewing several options laid forth by the Department of Customer Services Director Jeff Coelho.

Elected officials from the area, including City Council Chairwoman Barbara Marshall and Councilman Donovan Dela Cruz, joined the mayor in the grand opening ceremony, which marked the restoration of full driver licensing services for Windward Oahu after a two-year hiatus.

The previous City administration at the time closed the licensing office at the Kaneohe Police Station, citing safety issues with the location, lack of parking and lack of staff. Residents clamored for the service to return to the Windward community and the Hannemann administration made it a priority to work on this initiative. After the space at Koolau Center was identified, work began in October to convert it to meet the City’s needs.

“We heard the concerns of Windward residents about a need for a licensing facility,” said Hannemann. “We’re glad we could deliver this project for them, on time and under budget.”

The new facility will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays and provides full licensing services, including written exams and road tests, duplicates and renewals. The center has a staff of eight.



Mayor Hannemann, in foreground, shows the new Koolau Driver License Center to City Council Chairwoman Barbara Marshall and, behind her, Councilman Donovan Dela Cruz.



CITY OPENS NEW KOKO HEAD ARCHERY RANGE

Mayor Mufi Hannemann gets a lesson from Joshua Thomas at the dedication of the Koko Head Archery Range. The new range has nine shooting lanes and is part of the City’s Koko Head Shooting Complex. The effort to build the archery range was championed by Mary Houghton of the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board and Thomas’ grandfather, the late Jerry Hucks.



LEFT PHOTO: Members of the University of Hawaii Warriors football team join Mayor Mufi Hannemann onstage at Kapolei City Lights, the holiday festival kickoff for West Oahu. From left, UH Warriors Adam Leonard, Leonard Peters, Nate Ilaoa, Ikaika Alama-Francis, the mayor, entertainer Pali Kaaihue and Warriors Davone Bess and Ryan Grice-Mullen. The players walked in the West Oahu Electric Light Parade with the mayor and helped him light the Christmas tree at Kapolei Hale. **RIGHT PHOTO:** Kaneohe's Dean Wilson returned home after winning his first PGA tournament and was proclaimed a "Honolulu Hero" by Mayor Hannemann in a gathering at the Pali Golf Course, where Wilson developed his passion for golf.

COMING UP IN JANUARY

- January 6, 7 – 5 p.m., Waikiki, Tesoro Hawaii presents Sunset on the Beach, celebrating the Sony Open in Hawaii.
- January 10 – 6:30 p.m., 3rd annual Mayor's New Year Prayer Service, Kawaiahao Church, an ecumenical service for the new year, continuing a tradition begun when Mayor Hannemann took office.
- January 15 – 9 a.m., Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade, Magic Island through Waikiki to Kapiolani Park.
- January 16 – Last day to file for candidacy in neighborhood board elections and to register to vote, for those who aren't already registered voters.

BILLS SIGNED

In addition to Bill 79 (see page 1), Mayor Hannemann has signed into law:

- Bill 71, CD 2, which prohibits any audible sound from a cell phone, radio, game player or any other electronic device aboard a City bus. The bill does not ban cell phones on TheBus, but does require that the ringer be turned off.
- Bill 75, which converts Kaimuki's largest parking lot, the City-owned Kaimuki Lot 1 between 11th and 12th avenues, from coin-fed meters to an attendant operation. The change addresses the lack of peak-hour parking. The contractor will provide \$1 million in improvements. The change is expected to take place early this year.
- Bill 70, CD1, which updates the City's Register of Exceptional Trees.
- Bill 76, CD1, which rezones approximately 30.4 acres of land in Kapolei from AG-1 restricted agricultural to BMX-3, community business mixed use with a 90-foot height limit.

MAYOR ON AIR

Radio: Mayor Hannemann will be on the radio on:

- January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 – 7:20 a.m., "Mayor's Minute with Billy V," KINE 105.1 FM.
- January 5, 12, 19, 26 – 7 to 8 a.m., "Aloha Friday with Mayor Mufi Hannemann," KUMU 1500 AM.
- January 7 – 7 to 8 a.m., "Community Matters" with Mike Buck, KSSK, KHVH 830 AM, and other Clear Channel Communications stations in Hawaii. To hear a podcast, go to <http://honolulu.townpodcast.com>
- January 9 – 8:30 to 9 a.m., KZOO 1250 AM. Call 593-8670.
- January 18 – 7:30 a.m., Frank B. Shaner Show, KUMU 94.7 FM. Call 947-5868.

Cable television: Mayor Hannemann appears on Olelo, Oceanic Cablevision Channel 54 on:

- [Mayor Mufi Hannemann's Report](#), January 4, 11, 18, 25 – 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- [City News from the Hannemann Administration](#), January 4, 11, 18, 25 – 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.honolulu.gov/mayor/0107jannews.pdf>